

Date Mailed September 6, 2002

BEFORE THE
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WISCONSIN

Notification by Hillsboro Telephone Company, Inc., That it
Intends to Increase Telephone Rates

2560-TR-102

NOTICE OF INVESTIGATION

THIS IS AN INVESTIGATION opened in response to the notification received on July 25, 2002, from Hillsboro Telephone Company (Hillsboro, or applicant), that it intends to increase rates for local exchange telephone service at its Hillsboro exchange in Vernon, Juneau, and Sauk Counties.

Rate increases are proposed for local service and for directory assistance (DA). Hillsboro proposes to increase local rates by up to 6.2 percent and increase the DA charge from \$.35 to \$.45 per call. The proposed rate for residential service is \$17.25, which includes \$.35 for the TEACH-UW-DPI assessments. A copy of the applicant's notification is available on the commission's website at: http://www.psc.state.wi.us/telecom/cases/rec_apps/recentap.htm.

Hillsboro mailed notice of this proposal to its customers on August 1, 2002. Under Wis. Stat. § 196.215(3)(a), the proposed rates will become effective November 1, 2002, as specified in the notice. Customers have the opportunity to petition the Commission for an investigation of the utility's rate increase.

NOTICE IS GIVEN that the Commission may investigate this matter under Wis. Stat. § 196.215(3)(a). If, within 60 days of the mailing of the utility's notice to customers, the Commission receives a petition from at least 161 customers requesting that the Commission determine rates, further investigation will be necessary. The utility's proposed increases may still go into effect; however, the rates will then be subject to refund.

The Commission considers it necessary, in order to carry out its duties, to investigate all books, accounts, practices, and activities of the applicant. The expenses incurred or to be incurred by the Commission which are reasonably attributable to such an investigation will be assessed against and collected from the applicant in accordance with the provisions of Wis. Stat. § 196.85 and Wis. Admin. Code ch. PSC 5.

The Commission does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the provision of programs, services, or employment. Any person with a disability who needs accommodations to

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participate in this matter or who needs to obtain this document in a different format should contact the docket coordinator listed below.

Questions regarding this matter may be directed to docket coordinator Tom Gross at (608) 267-2337.

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin, _____

By the Commission:

Lynda L. Dorr
Secretary to the Commission

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